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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

Measures for protecting San Diego, Cal., against plague in Mexico.

SAN DIEGO QUARANTINE STATION,
San Diego, Cal., January 14, 1903.

For the information of masters, agents, owners of vessels, and others interested in shipping and in vessels plying between the port of San Diego, Cal., and Mexican coast ports:

In view of the reported prevalence of plague at certain Mexican coast ports and the local conditions existing at those ports, your attention is invited to the following paragraphs from Department Circular 6, addition to United States quarantine regulations—prevention of the introduction of plague into the United States and its dependencies:

ARTICLE IX.

Paragraph 4. In a port where plague prevails the vessel should not tie up to the dock. No lines should be passed to the shore that might permit rats on board. Passengers and cargo should be lightered, the crew not allowed ashore, and communication from shore to vessel should be under medical supervision. A statement to this effect from a medical officer of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service will have weight with the quarantine officer at the port of arrival in determining the question of disinfection and detention.

Par. 8. (*h*) The quarantine officer will carefully examine the ship's manifest of cargo for household goods, bedding, second-hand articles, personal baggage, corpses, rags, and articles apt to carry infection. Any article believed by the quarantine officer to be infected must be disinfected in accordance with the quarantine regulations of the United States.

ARTICLE XIV.

Par. 3. No person from an infected or suspected port or place shall be admitted into the United States until a total period of fifteen days (since modified, to a period of ten days, by Department circular letter—J. H. W. and W. P. W.—of date January 6, 1902) shall have elapsed under observation either at the port of departure, at sea, or at port of arrival, except as hereinafter provided.

Par. 4. A first-cabin passenger, bearing the certificate of an officer of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, certifying to nonexposure to the infection of plague for the ten days immediately preceding embarkation, may be admitted to entry without detention, provided in the opinion of the quarantine officer at the port of arrival he has not been exposed en route to persons and things presumably infected.

Par. 5. All passengers, except first-cabin passengers, shall be bathed and body clothing disinfected before landing. Similar measures shall be taken with the crew and their effects if the quarantine officer believes the crew has been exposed to infection.

Food and water supplies should not be taken on at an infected or suspected port or place, excepting in case of absolute necessity, and then only under medical supervision. A certification by a medical officer of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service that such supplies were from a noninfected locality will be required at the port of entry.

Following is a portion of section 10:

An Act To amend an act granting additional powers and imposing additional duties upon the Marine-Hospital Service, approved February 15, 1899.

Any master, owner, or agent of any vessel making a false statement relative to the sanitary condition of said vessel or its contents, or as to the health of any person or passenger thereon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to arrest, and upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or imprisonment, for not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Strict compliance with these regulations will be insisted upon with all vessels coming from infected or suspected ports, until thirty days shall have elapsed since date of last case of suspicious illness at aforesaid port or place.

W. W. McKAY,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, P. H. and M. H. S.,
United States Quarantine Officer.

Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—Yearly and monthly.

CALIFORNIA—Sacramento.—Month of December, 1902. Estimated population, 30,000. Total number of deaths, 48, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 1, and 8 from phthisis pulmonalis.

IOWA—Davenport.—Month of December, 1902. Estimated population, 40,000. Total number of deaths, 42, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 2, and 6 from phthisis pulmonalis.

The Health Bulletin says:

Diphtheria.—Linden, Grant, and Eden townships, Winnebago County; Thompson; Leeds; Keokuk; West Point; Griggs Township, Ida County; Manchester; Des Moines.

Measles.—Lake Township, Clay County.

Scarlet fever.—Des Moines; Grant Township, Monona County; Bloomfield; Gilmore City; Gladbrook; Ottumwa; Luana; and Shelby Township, Shelby County; Farmersburg Township, Clayton County.